GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:177
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Drinking Water Contamination
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Lallu

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any long term strategy to provide arsenic free water to the people across the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any task force has been constituted in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the Task Force;

(c) whether it has been established in a research that high level of boron and arsenic were present in ground water in several parts of western UP and including Delhi and their levels are increasing constantly and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether experts are blaming industrial waste and filth flowing into the drinking water sources as a reason for increasing level of boron and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for purification of potable water being supplied to western UP and Delhi in order to contain the level of said elements in potable water?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) Rural drinking Water supply is a State subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation assists the States technically and financially in providing safe drinking water through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme. Upto 67% of funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for coverage and tackling water quality problems with priority to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. Further, 5% of the NRDWP funds are earmarked for Water Quality and allocated to those States with habitations affected by excess chemical contamination and with high priority districts affected by Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome.

The Ministry has informed all the States to commission surface water based piped water supply schemes in all water quality affected habitations as a long term sustainable solution. However, since commissioning of Piped Water Supply projects may take 3-5 years and the rural people cannot be put to risk of consuming contaminated water during this period, all States have been advised to install community water purification plants. This is being done as a short term immediate measure for providing 8-10 lpcd (litre per capita per day) of safe water for drinking and cooking purpose only. On recommendation of NITI Aayog, the Government of India had released Rs 800 crore in March' 2016 to provide community water purification plants in all remaining arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. In addition, funds to the tune of Rs.100 Crore each are also provided for tackling arsenic and fluoride problems in West Bengal and Rajasthan respectively for the last mile connectivity in commissioning surface water based piped water supply schemes.

(b) No Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

(c) UP Jal Nigam has reported that no such study has been carried out in the districts of Western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi Jal Board has not reported any such studies.

(d) & (e) No such report has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation by experts. As stated in para (a) above, treatment units are being installed wherever required. Piped water supply schemes are being implemented to ensure contamination free water.

Delhi Jal board has full -fledged drinking piped water system based on surface sources and the same is maintained by them.

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